

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Patent Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A cholesterol-reducing agent comprising at least one dietary fiber selected from the group consisting of carob fruit flesh, a product isolated from carob fruit flesh or levan and at least one cholesterol-reducing active ingredient, except for a combination of a) a dietary fiber and b) an aryl-substituted propanolamine derivative or 1,4-benzothiepine 1,1-dioxide derivative.

2. (Previously Presented) The cholesterol-reducing agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dietary fiber or dietary fibers are present in a daily dose of from 1 to 50 g.

3. (Currently Amended) The agent as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein, in addition to carob fruit flesh, a product isolated from carob fruit flesh or levan, one or more dietary fibers from one or more of the following ~~following~~ substances are present: whole grain cereals, oat bran, β -glucan, rice bran, corn bran, barley, Psyllium, guar, carob beans, tragacanth, pectin, inulin, indigestible oligosaccharides, linseed, soy dietary fiber, soy bran, dextrins, arabinoxylans and arabinogalactans.

4. (Previously Presented) The agent as claimed in claim 1, wherein the dietary fiber is carob fiber.

5. (Currently Amended) The agent as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 4~~, wherein the dietary fiber is insoluble in water.

6. (Currently Amended) The agent as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1 to 5~~, wherein the active ingredient is selected from one or more of the following substances: statins, inhibitors of bile acid resorption, bile acid sequestrants, fibrates, nicotinic acid derivatives, phytosterols, plant stanols, cholesterol-reducing plant extracts, ~~guglipid gugulipid~~ and soy protein-containing products.

7. (Currently Amended) A cholesterol-reducing combination preparation comprising at least one dietary fiber selected from the group consisting of carob fruit flesh, a product isolated from carob fruit flesh or levan and at least one cholesterol-reducing active ingredient, except for an aryl-substituted propanolamine derivative or 1,4-benzothiepine 1,1-dioxide derivative, wherein said dietary fiber and said cholesterol-reducing active ingredient are present in separate administration forms.

8. (Currently Amended) The cholesterol-reducing combination preparation as claimed in claim 7, wherein, in addition to carob fruit flesh, a product isolated from carob fruit flesh or levan, one or more dietary fibers from one or more of the following substances are present: whole grain cereals, oat bran, β -glucan, rice bran, corn bran, barley, Psyllium, guar, carob bean seeds, tragacanth, pectin, inulin, indigestible oligosaccharides, carob fruit flesh or a product isolated from carob fruit flesh, linseed, soy dietary fiber, soy bran, dextrins, arabinoxylans and arabinogalactans.

9. (Currently Amended) The cholesterol-reducing combination preparation as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the dietary fiber or the dietary fibers~~[[,]]~~ is (are) present in a daily dose of from 1 to 50 g, have and the at least one cholesterol-reducing active ingredient are is present in separate administration forms.

10. (Currently Amended) The cholesterol-reducing combination preparation as claimed in claim 7~~[[,]]~~ ~~8 or 9~~, wherein one or more of the dietary fibers are foods.

11. (Currently Amended) The cholesterol-reducing combination preparation as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 7 to 10~~, wherein the cholesterol-reducing active ingredient is a food or drug.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an agent as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1 to 6~~, wherein at least one dietary fiber and at least one cholesterol-reducing active ingredient are mixed with one another.

13. (Currently Amended) A drug comprising ~~The use of~~ an agent as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1 to 6 for producing a drug~~.

14. (Currently Amended) A drug ~~The use~~ as claimed in claim 13 ~~for producing wherein said drug is a cholesterol-reducing drug~~.

15. (Currently Amended) A drug ~~The use~~ as claimed in claim 13 ~~for producing a wherein said drug for the prophylaxis of is a hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia or arteriosclerosis reducing drug~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A food or a food ingredient comprising ~~The use of~~ an agent as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 1 to 6 for producing a food or a food ingredient~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A food or a food ingredient ~~The use~~ as claimed in claim 16, ~~for producing wherein said food or food ingredient is a cholesterol-reducing food or [[a]] food ingredient~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A drug comprising ~~The use of~~ a combination preparation as claimed in ~~one of claim[[s]] 7 to 9 for producing a drug~~.

19. (Currently Amended) The use A drug as claimed in claim 18 for producing wherein said drug is a cholesterol-reducing drug.

20. (Currently Amended) The use A drug as claimed in claim 18 for producing a wherein said drug for the prophylaxis of is a hypercholesterolemia, hyperlipidemia or arteriosclerosis-reducing drug.

21. (Currently Amended) The use of An animal feed comprising an agent as claimed in one of claim[[s]] 1 to 6 in animal feeding.

22. (Currently Amended) The use of A feedstuff comprising an agent as claimed in one of claim[[s]] 1 to 6 for producing a feedstuff.